

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to specifically recite that the surface of the aluminum foil layer contacts the surface of the innermost layer containing the linear low density polyethylene at the aging and keeping step (claim 1) and at the rolling step (claim 7). These amendments emphasize the feature that the LLDPE innermost layer covers and protects the surface of the aluminum foil from contamination. The specification is replete with references to the fact that the metallocene linear low density polyethylene of the instant invention avoids certain contaminants, and thereby can minimize or eliminate the transfer of contaminants within the laminate. See, e.g., paragraph bridging page 5-6, first full paragraph of page 6, paragraph bridging page 6-7, the first two full paragraphs of page 10, the third full paragraph of page 14, the paragraph bridging pages 14-15, and the second full paragraph of page 23. Those passages recite that among the advantages of the metallocene polyethylene being incorporated in the innermost film is the reduction of low molecular weight components and minimization of the contamination of the aluminum foil surface. Among other things, this improves layer adhesion intensity.

Applicants urge that the cited references do not teach the advantages of the mLLDPE layer on the innermost layer as being in contact with the aluminum foil layer as recited in the instant claims. In particular, there is no reference or suggestion that the incorporation of such material will improve the layer adhesion intensity on the aluminum foil surface as protected by the mLLDPE layer during, e.g., the aging and keeping step or the rolling step. Accordingly, the cited references do not teach or suggest the invention as now claimed. Applicants respectfully request

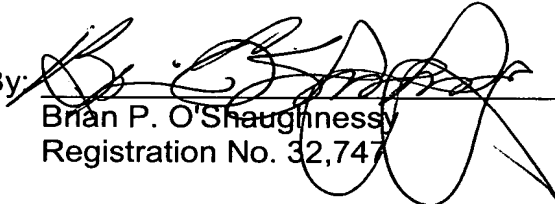
reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in light of the proffered amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the instant claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request formal notification to that effect. If the Examiner perceives any impediment to such formal notification, whether formal or substantive, Applicants ask that the Examiner call Applicants' representative. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FROM
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS)

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By: 
Brian P. O'Shaughnessy
Registration No. 32,747

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620